

Kennedy Library

January 14, 1964

I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the hundreds of thousands of messages--nearly eight hundred thousand in all--which my children and I have received over the past few weeks.

The knowledge of the affection in which my husband was held by all of you has sustained me, and the warmth of these tributes is something I shall never forget. Whenever I can bear to, I read them. All his bright light gone from the world. All of you who have written to me know how much we all loved him and that he returned that love in full measure.

It is my greatest wish that all of these letters be acknowledged. It will take a long time to do so, but I know you will understand.

Each and every message is to be treasured not only for my children but so that future generations will know how much our country and people in other nations thought of him. Your letters will be placed with his papers in the Library to be erected in his memory along the Charles River in Boston, Massachusetts. I hope that in years to come many of you and your children will be able to visit the Kennedy Library. It will be, we hope, not only a memorial to President Kennedy but a living center of study of the times in which he lived and for young people and scholars from all over the world.

May I again thank you on behalf of my children and of the President's family for the comfort your letters brought to us all.

Thank you.

Mrs. John F. Kennedy